

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 6, 2007. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8 and 12 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 10-13 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 2, 4, 5, 6 and 14 have been amended as to matters of form only. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Claims 15-19 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The drawings were objected to as failing comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5) on the ground that they include several reference characters not mentioned in the specification, including B, Rs1, Rs2 and C2'. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the specification to recite the above-mentioned reference characters. It is believed that the above objection to the drawings has been obviated and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Figure 1 should be labeled "PRIOR ART" on the ground that it has the same structure as Figure 11 which is labeled "PRIOR ART." Applicants respectfully disagree. As is apparent from the description in the specification, Fig. 1 shows a part of a first embodiment, which is disclosed with reference to a combination of Figs. 1-4. Applicants respectfully submit that the first embodiment as a whole as depicted in Figs. 1-4 is not the same as the prior art. Accordingly, Fig. 1 should not be labeled as prior art.

The specification has been objected to based on the informalities noted in paragraphs 6-14 of the Office Action. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the

specification with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 6-14 of the Office Action. Applicants note, however, that with respect to the objection in paragraph 7, the section headings are, in fact, in upper case. It is believed that the above-mentioned objections to the specification have been obviated and their withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The claims were objected to based on the informalities noted in paragraphs 11-13 of the Office Action. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the claims with special attention to the points raised in those paragraphs. It is believed that the above-mentioned objections to the claims have been obviated and their withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,973,311 (Sauer et al.).

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer in view of WO 03/049190 (using U.S. Application Publication No. US 2004/0195490 (Sugiyama)) as a translation.

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 12 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a radiation image pick-up device including: (1) a plurality of pixels disposed in a matrix, each of the pixels including at least one photoelectric conversion element for converting incident radiation into electric charges; (2) a scanning circuit for scanning said pixels; and (3) a signal output circuit for outputting signals from the pixels. The radiation

image pick-up device is characterized in that a plurality of signal reading wirings through which the pixel and the signal output circuit are connected to each other are provided for each pixel, and in that each of the pixels includes semiconductor elements connected to each of the signal reading wirings, each of the semiconductor elements is selected by controlling an operation of said scanning circuit, and each of the signal reading wirings is selected based on an actuation of at least one semiconductor element by said scanning circuit.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are: (1) a plurality of pixels disposed in a matrix, each of the pixels including at least one photoelectric conversion element for converting incident radiation into electric charges and (2) a signal output circuit for outputting signals from the pixels, wherein the radiation image pick-up device is characterized in that a plurality of signal reading wirings through which the pixel and the signal output circuit are connected to each other are provided for each pixel, and in that each of the pixels includes semiconductor elements connected to each of the signal reading wirings, each of the semiconductor elements is selected by controlling an operation of said scanning circuit, and each of the signal reading wirings is selected based on an actuation of the at least one semiconductor element by said scanning circuit. By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 1, the radiation image pickup device can be operated flexibly and suitably adapted to a condition and a situation of the radiographing. As discussed in the specification, the device is capable of carrying out both still image photographing and moving image photographing, which differ from each other in dosage of exposure to radiation and in required sensitivity.

Sauer relates to a high resolution imager array which may be operated in low resolution mode for faster read out of the signal representative of the detected image. As shown

in Figure 1, the imager array has a pixel array 20 including pixel elements 22, which include a pixel FD11 and a pixel FD12. Pixel FD11 is electrically coupled to a signal line 1, and pixel FD12 is electrically coupled to a signal line 2. A low resolution switch 24 is electrically coupled between signal line 1 and signal line 2. Pixel array 20 further includes a row select line 1, a row select line 2, and a column select line 1. Row select line 1 is electrically coupled to pixel FD11 and a buffer switch 26, and row select line 2 is electrically coupled to pixel FD12 and a buffer switch 28. However, in Sauer, each one of the plural pixels has one signal wiring. Thus, Applicants have found nothing in Sauer that would teach or suggest “a plurality of pixels disposed in a matrix, each of the pixels including at least one photoelectric conversion element for converting incident radiation into electric charges” or “a signal output circuit for outputting signals from said pixels, said radiation image pick-up device being characterized in that a plurality of signal reading wirings through which said pixel and said signal output circuit are connected to each other are provided for each pixel, and in that each of said pixels includes semiconductor elements connected to each of said signal reading wirings, each of said semiconductor elements is selected by controlling an operation of said scanning circuit, and each of said signal reading wirings is selected based on an actuation of at least one semiconductor element by said scanning circuit,” as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Sauer.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants’ opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 8 and 12 recite features similar to those discussed above with

respect to Claim 1 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jennifer A. Reda/
Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 1794888v1